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Message Text

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47
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03

AID-10 RSR-01 /079 W
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P 151237 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3268
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10806

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MIL VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, JUNE 15

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM NHA TRANG AND RPT FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0614

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, JUNE 15

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KONTUM PROVINCE, TOOK A NOTICEABLE DOWNWARD TURN IN THE 24- HOUR REPORTING PERIOD. THERE WAS NO RENEWED SURGE OF LAND-GRABBING ON THE EVE OF THE " REAL" CEASE- FIRE CALLED FOR IN THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE. BOTH SIDES EVIDENTLY FELT THAT THERE WERE NO WORTHWHILE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR CHEAP LAST- MINUTE SUCCESSES
AND SO FAR SEEM TO BE TESTING THE NEWLY- EMERGING WATERS WITH A
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WARY ACCEPTANCE OF THE STATUS QUO.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY, WHILE HAVING LEVELED OFF FROM LAST WEEK' S PEAK, WAS STILL CHARACTERIZED BY AN ASSORTMENT OF SCATTERED GROUND ATTACKS, MININGS, ATTACKS- BY- FIRE, AND RVNAF PATROL CONTACTS. A TOTAL OF THIRTEEN INCIDENTS INVOLVING CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN BINH DINH, PHU YEN, BINH THUAN, LAM DONG, KONTUM AND PLEIKU. CASUALTY FIGURES: RVNAF: 7 KIA, 23 WIA; VC/ NVA: 8 KIA.

3. KONTUM IS THE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION TO THE FALLING LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN MR 2. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT THE TEMPO THERE HAS PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. RVNAF UNITS ARE PROBING AT ENEMY- HELD TRUNG NGHIA FROM THREE DIRECTIONS IN ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE RECENTLY- LOST VILLAGE. THE 1 ST BATTALION OF THE 44 TH ARVN REGIMENT IS OPERATING EAST OF TRUNG NGHIA AND MADE SEVERAL CONTACTS YESTERDAY (JUNE 14) . ANOTHER UNIT WAS INSERTED BY AIR YESTERDAY NORTH OF TRUNG NGHIA AND, ACCORDING TO A REPORT RECEIVED LATE MORNING JUNE 15, IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE VILLAGE BUT ENCOUNTERING HEAVY RESISTANCE. RF UNITS OPERATING SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA HAVE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL FIREFIGHTS WITH ENEMY FORCES GUARDING THE VILLAGE AND WERE DRIVEN BACK YESTERDAY WHILE ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE DAK BLA RIVER AND ENTER THE VILLAGE.

4. OTHER KONTUM ACTIVITY INCLUDED UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS BY RVNAF TO DISLODED ENEMY FORCES FROM THEIR POSITIONS NEAR THE DAK LECK BRIDGE AND IN DAK RO COT VILLAGE. OVER- ALL CASUALTIES SUSTAINED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE KONTUM ACTION THUS FAR HAVE BEEN LIGHT. HOWEVER, THE INCIDENT WHICH, ACCORDING TO MR 2 NHA TRANG BRIEFING, INVOLVED THE HEAVIEST CASUALTY TOLL FOR THE DAY WAS AN ENEMY ATTACK IN THE VICINITY OF TRUNG NGHIA WHICH LEFT 2 RVNAF KIA AND 15 WIA. HEAVY ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT WERE CALLED IN, BUT NO ESTIMATES OF ENEMY CASUALTIES HAVE YET BEEN REPORTED.

5. REACTION TO PARIS COMMUNIQUE: POLOFF KONTUM REPORTS FIRST TENTATIVE REACTION OF SOME ARVN OFFICIALS TO PARIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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